GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1199
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
DECLARATION OF SUNDERBAN RIVERS AS NATIONAL WATERWAYS
SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to declare Sunderban rivers in West Bengal as National Waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from the West Bengal Government or any other quarters in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir. There is no such proposal being pursued at the moment.

(c) & (d) : The West Bengal Government has requested for declaration of Sunderban rivers as National Waterways.

(e) : A proposal for declaration of Sunderban waterways as national waterway from Namkhana (Haldia) to Raimongal river on Indo-Bangladesh border had been pursued earlier. However, Ministry of Environment and Forests did not accord environmental clearance to the proposal and suggested exploring an alternate route bypassing Sunderbans tiger reserve area.